

Hearing on Raised Bill No. 261, LCO No. 1653.

Attention:
Connecticut General Assembly
Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Good day!

May I start by telling you all how happy I am to hear that there is a bill in the works to protect people like my family that are affected when a killer is allowed to profit from his crime.

My sister, Heather Williamson Messenger was killed by David Messenger in January of 1998. While my dad was still alive, he tried to gain control of Heather's estate and was unable to do so. Being out of state, we were not able to follow the proceedings and all that occurred, and my knowledge of Connecticut law is limited. We were told we were not able to sue David Messenger for Wrongful Death because he was found "Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect". I haven't figured out why, as even O.J. Simpson was sued for the same reason.

When my attorney started checking into the probate records, we learned that Heather Williamson Messenger's Estate filed a wrongful death claim against Traveler's Insurance. How is it that a person can kill and make money for doing it? How can a lawyer actually do that with a clear conscience knowing that the dead victim had a son, parents and siblings? Why would that be allowed to happen? You can't believe the disgust I felt, when after the fact, I read that it was settled for \$600,000 and that over \$424,000 went to the actual killer! How is this right? Or just?

Please pass this bill!
Sincerely,
Hannah Williamson